Volume 31 Issue 18

THE FLYER

1 March 2004

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT VOICE

INSIDE –

•NEWS Page 4
Virus Scare

•A & E Page 11
Gibson's "Passion"

•FEATURES Page 16
Fuji Sushi review

•SPORTS Page 20
Women's Tennis

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

By Abby Smith
Staff Writer

Prison breaks, conspiracy, murder, revenge and a bloodthirsty barber. Salisbury University Theatre's production of the Tony award-winning musical "Sweeney Todd" is full of suspense and excitement, and is sure to leave audiences captivated. It is a re-telling of a popular 19th century myth of a London man, Sweeney Todd, who seeks to exact revenge on a judge who imprisoned him, and whom he suspects is holding his daughter captive. Todd joins forces with meat pie shop owner Nellie Lovett and establishes a phony barbershop above her store. Todd invites the judge up for a close shave, and a little revenge. The twisted thrill of vigilante justice incites Todd to continue with his murderous streak, giving Nellie plenty of "special ingredients" for her pies.

"The piece is about the morality of seeking your own revenge," said cast member Katie Keddell. "'Freely flows the blood of those who moralize.' That's basically the big theme," she said, quoting a line from the production.

"Sweeney Todd" is renowned for having incredibly creative and visually exciting energies, which take the audience out of their seats and onto the stage, making them feel as though they have been transported to that very barber shop in olden-day London. SU's theatre team has worked incredibly hard to live up to that standard. "The special effects are great," effused cast member Brett Harwood. The theatre crew went to great lengths to make everything as realistic as possible, which is a particular challenge with this type of production.

In addition to being a visual wonder, "Sweeney Todd" will be an auditory delight, as the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra will accompany the players in the musical thriller.

Photo by Kat Hess

Actors prepare for the big performance.

"It's different…it's huge," Harwood stated. "I think people will like it because it brings everything to the table; comedy, tragedy, mystery and humor."

"Sweeney Todd" will be performed from Friday, March 5 until Sunday, March 7, and will resume performances on Thursday, March 11 through Sunday, March 14. All performances are in Holloway Hall Auditorium. Weekday and Saturday shows will be at 8 p.m., and there will be Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Salisbury University's production of Stephen Soundheim's "Sweeney Todd" is produced by Dr. T. Paul Pfeiffer, and features Christopher Wallace as Sweeney Todd and Jocelyn Anderson as Nellie Lovett.

NASA scientist discusses future of space exploration

By Charles Bloom
Staff Writer

Astrophysicist Dr. Jonathan Gardner visits Salisbury University on Tuesday, March 16 as part of the ongoing Futurism Cultural Events Series. The talk will be entitled "Finding Our Origins with the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes."

Gardner will discuss NASA's Origins program of space telescopes, including current knowledge about the birth of our universe and the next-generation James Webb Space Telescope.

The James Webb Space Telescope, named after an early and influential head of the NASA agency, is intended to be an infrared observatory that will replace the Hubble telescope at the end of this decade. Improvements will include a larger, lighter, adjustable mirror, improved light detectors and better image filters.

It is hoped that this enhanced telescope will be capable of detecting the previously unobserved phenomenon of galaxy formation as well as enabling a better understanding of the "dark matter problem," the undiscovered substance which is believed to constitute the majority of matter in the universe.

Gardner is the deputy senior project scientist for the James Webb Space Telescope and is currently employed at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. While working on plans for the James Webb Telescope, Gardner has been analyzing data sent back from the Hubble Telescope. His first introduction to the program was in 1990, when he studied cosmology and galaxy formation with Hubble's experimental infrared detectors at Hawaii's high-altitude Mauna Kea Observatory.

Gardner graduated with a degree in astronomy from Harvard University, and received a Masters and PhD from the University of Hawaii. In 1992 he won a NATO fellowship to pursue research at the University of Durham in northern England.

The Futurism Cultural Series was chosen as one which could be applicable to all disciplines. Additionally, it was chosen as a way to draw attention to concerns and issues outside of the immediate Salisbury area. "When you think of Futurism, you think globally," said SU Cultural Affairs Coordinator June Krell-Salgado.

Gardner's talk is believed to be a good match for the series because, in addition to employing advanced technology and telling people more about their universe, "you don't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been." Gardner's prestige is also an important factor. "It's pretty exciting to have someone of that caliber coming here," said Krell-Salgado, "and it's pretty auspicious considering the administration's space initiative."

Fun things to do in O.C. in winter, pg. 10

Flyer Photo by Lucia Michel

Salisbury Crime Beat

02/13/04 - 02/16/04
08:03 p.m.: Vandalism
Graffiti was found on a stall in the lower level men's room of the Commons.

02/18/04
08:00 a.m. - 09:50 a.m.: Possession of illegal drugs
A book bag was recovered in the University Center. A small amount of marijuana and a small amount of an unknown suspected illegal drug was recovered from the bag. The sample has been sent to the Maryland State Police lab for analysis. Administrative and criminal charges are pending.

02/20/04
04:45 p.m.: Skateboard complaint
Officers responded to the north patio area of Henson Hall to a complaint of skate boarders jumping on benches, etc. The people were identified and advised of the skateboard policy. They were not students and will be sent "no-trespass" letters.

02/20/04
07:10 p.m. - 07:19 p.m.: Telephone Misuse
Two residents of Chester Hall reported receiving annoying and unwanted phone calls.

02/20/04
08:23 p.m.: Possession of Alcoholic Beverages
An underage student and a non-student were found to be in possession of a quantity of beer in the Devilbiss parking lot. The student was issued a civil citation for possession of alcoholic beverage and the over 21 year old non-student was issued a civil citation for furnishing alcohol to an underage person. A no-trespass letter will also be sent.

02/21/04 - 02/22/04
09:35 p.m. - 02:00 p.m.: Theft
A resident of Chester Hall reported that a license plate was stolen from a vehicle while parked in the Devilbiss lot. The Maryland tag was #-46M328.

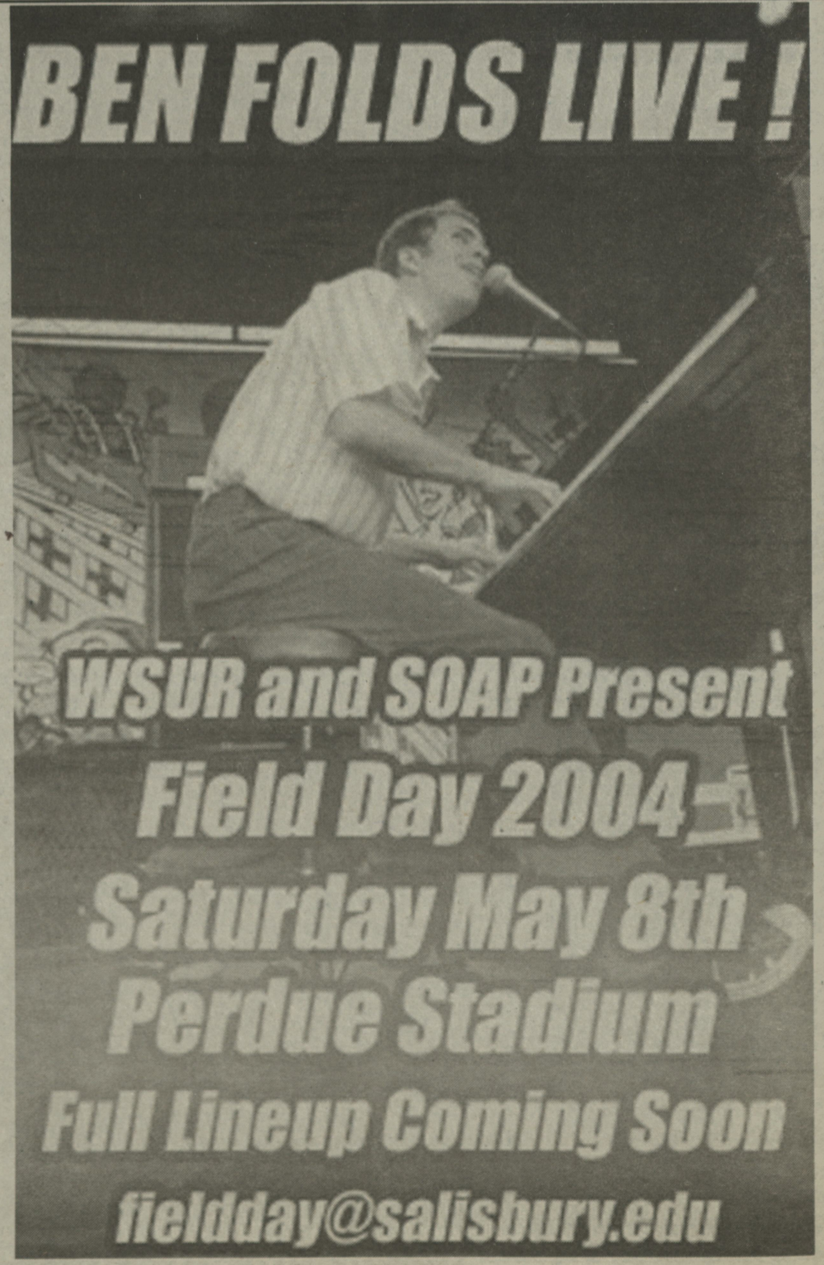
02/22/04
09:30 p.m. - 09:48 p.m.: Indecent Exposure
Residents of Chester Hall reported that an unknown man, standing outside the building on the west side, had exposed himself. The man appeared to be in his 40s. He stood near the window of the lounge and was masturbating. When the witnesses saw him looking in the window, they yelled and the man ran from the area. University Police responded, but could not locate the suspect.

02/24/04
01:09 a.m.: Possession of Marijuana
Officers responded to a room in Severn Hall to a report of the odor of burning marijuana. They located a room where the odor was coming from. One resident and a resident of another room were identified. They admitted to smoking marijuana in the room and a ceramic smoking device was recovered. Administrative action is pending.

02/24/04
06:30 p.m.: Assault
A resident student stated that there was an incident in the Commons. There were no injuries and no criminal charges have been filed. The incident will be handled on campus administratively.

02/25/04
10:50 a.m. - 10:52 a.m.: Theft
A student reported that a purse was stolen from a room in Caruthers Hall. The purse had been left unattended for approximately two minutes while the student left the room. Upon returning to the room, a man was exiting the room. The student then noticed that her property was gone.

02/25/04
10:37 p.m.: Possession of Marijuana
An officer responded to Wicomico Hall to investigate a complaint of the odor of marijuana. The officer located a room where the suspected marijuana smoke could be smelled. A resident of the room was identified along with another resident of Wicomico Hall. Administrative action is pending.



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Bradley P. and Debra Kang Dean continue Spring Literature Fest

By Stephanie Reade
Staff Writer

Salisbury University's Spring Literature Festival features writers Bradley P. and Debra Kang Dean March 9 in the Montgomery Room of the Commons.

"[The event's] been terrifically successful in the past. The readings are often packed with students and members of the community," said Dr. Michael Waters, director of the Writers on the Shore series.

The festival began in 1978 and has included a Nobel Prize winner, several Pulitzer Prize winners, National Book Award winners and United States Poet Laureates.

Bradley P. Dean, director of the Thoreau Society, will speak about his reconstructed version of Thoreau's "The Dispersion of Seeds" manuscript at 4 p.m. He lived at Walden Pond and will talk about his firsthand experiences with Thoreau's work. He is currently working on the multi-volume set titled "The Notebooks of Henry D. Thoreau," which includes the complete texts of 14 manuscript journals Thoreau kept from 1848-1861.

Debra Kang Dean will read from her two poetry volumes "News of Home" and "Precipitates" at 8 p.m. "Call me Yobo, call me Nit/call me a hairy Okinawan/and I do not flinch./What should I do-hate myself?/Tell me Hawai'i is not my home/and watch me explode," she wrote in her piece "Pineapples."

"She's an absolutely terrific poet," Waters said. She brings her Hawaiian and Korean background into her work and discusses ethnicity, one of her many subjects, he said.

"There's quite a difference between reading work on a page and hearing it read by the person who wrote it," commented Waters.

He reflected on the sensual and intellectual pleasure involved in the listening experience. "These are things that we don't have often in any other form, except perhaps maybe when we listen to music. This is a very different kind of music, and it has news in it. It's news that concerns all of us as human beings, news that's about the soul, the interior life, and that's news that's often hard to get these days," Waters said.

The readings are free to the public and will be followed by a reception. More information can be found at www.salisbury.edu.

Classifieds

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Computer virus raises concerns

By Shane Jacobus
Staff Writer

The campus computer system has been infected by a strain of the MyDoom virus, according to the Information Technology department. Some files on the "O" and "P" drives have already been deleted due to this bug. In one particular case, this virus was delivered as a zip file to an AOL account. It infected the user's computer and the network drives to which the user was connected.

Consequently, IT is taking strong measures in order to stop this virus from spreading and inflicting more damage. They sent out an e-mail advising students not to open their off-campus mail accounts or e-mails while logged in on a campus computer. They also warned students against opening e-mail containing attachments, especially .exe or .zip files.

If anybody thinks his or her computer is infected, the student may download the Stinger tool to scan the system and remove the virus if present. Stinger was sent out as an attachment in a campus-wide email from IT last week. In the meantime, IT is updating the Guinevere program to catch the virus. However, one student feels somewhat agitated about this virus hitting campus.

"My question is," said senior Linda Grimmer, "if there's a firewall and other forms of protection on this system, why wasn't it used to prevent this?"

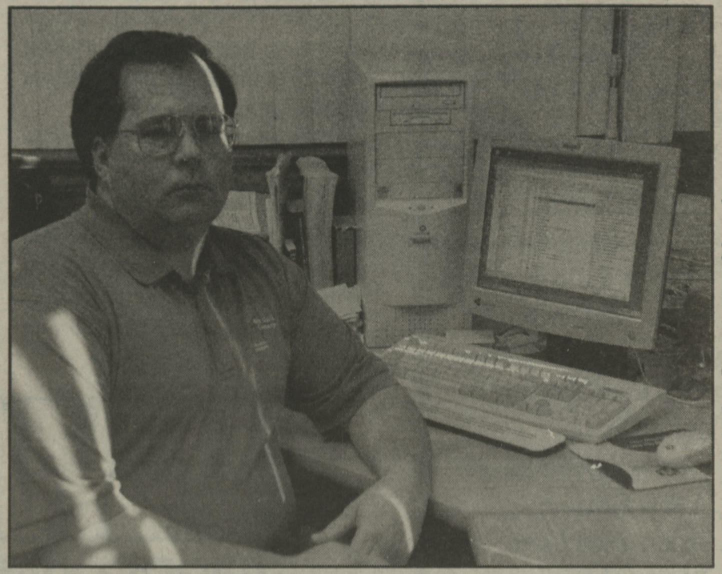
Unfortunately, the firewall only filters what comes in directly through the network. It is not programmed to filter off-campus e-mail accounts opened while students are logged on to a campus computer.

"All performance issues for a single PC are not related to the networks but the PC itself," said Tony Stancil, associate director of IT.

While part of IT is still involved in a battle against the virus, the department is intent on continuing to make other improvements on campus. Stancil says IT is implementing a new program to benefit students with laptops.

"We're launching a campus wireless network," he said. "We've installed hot zones in various places on campus where students can access the Internet without having to plug in their laptops."

These places include Blackwell Library, Dining areas, University Center, Henson Science Hall and the Perdue Wing of Holloway Hall. Any student who wants to utilize the wireless network must fill out a form with IT. IT can be reached by phone at 410-677-5349 or by email at wireless@salisbury.edu.



Flyer photo by Constance Mensh

Assistant Director of Information Technology, Tony Stancil.

Campus Blurbs

Omicron Delta Epsilon Seeking Membership

Omicron Delta Epsilon, an international honors society in economics (and one of the largest academic honor societies in the world), is looking for new, eligible members. The minimum requirements for admission for undergraduates are: Completion of 12 semester hours of economics courses (must have ECON prefix); and attainment of at least a B average (3.00) in economics courses and an overall B average (3.00) in all classes. To learn more about ODE, including the benefits and objectives of this prestigious international honors society, please contact ODE President Bryan Shone at bs39122@salisbury.edu or ODE Advisor Dr. Ying Wu at yxwu@salisbury.edu.

Study abroad in London

Have you considered studying abroad in the United Kingdom? Did you know SU has an affiliation with London Metropolitan University, offering a full curriculum and tuition discounts? Two information sessions are scheduled to learn more about the opportunities for study abroad in the UK. On March 4th, Rob Hallworth, Director of International Educations here at SU, will hold an information session from 3:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon. Chris Rolfe, a LMU representative, will be on campus Thursday, April 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon to answer questions and provide information on London Met. Both information sessions will be held in the Resource Room (226) of the Multiethnic Student Center, 2nd floor of the Guerrieri University Center. If you can't make either session, contact Rob Hallworth at 410-548-5782 or by email at rxhallworth@salisbury.edu.

National Foreign Language Week

Salisbury University's Modern Languages Department hosts a film series to celebrate National Foreign Language Week Monday-Friday, March 1-5.

The German Club inaugurates the series with a screening of 1996's Beyond Silence Monday, March 1. The film follows a woman who spends most of her life as a translator for her deaf-mute parents. When she becomes a successful clarinetist, she must choose between her music and her parents who cannot appreciate it.

The Spanish Club presents 2002's Talk to Her Wednesday, March 3. The movie examines the lives of two men who share an odd friendship while caring for their comatose girlfriends.

The French Club rounds out the series Thursday, March 4, with 1991's Diva. In the romantic thriller, a teen-ager secretly records the concert of a superstar diva, unwittingly ending up with a tape identifying a mobster involved in an international sex and drug ring. The film finds him on the run from blackmailers, hit men and the police through the streets of Paris.

All films begin at 7 p.m. in the Honors House classroom on Camden Avenue. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited. For more information call 410-543-6030 or visit the SU Web site at www.salisbury.edu.

Dr. Sims-Wood closes Brown v. Board discussions

Salisbury University's ongoing examination of the landmark Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education, which made segregated schools illegal, concludes with a lecture by Dr. Janet Sims-Wood at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 11, in the Wicomico Room of the Guerrieri University Center.

A member of Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Sims-Wood speaks on "Separate But Equal Has No Place."

Sponsored by SU's Office of Multiethnic Student Services, the Maryland Humanities Council and the Wicomico County branch of the NAACP, Sims-Wood's presentation gives a historical overview of the case with historic photos from each of the states involved, as well as photos of events taking place to commemorate the 50th anniversary. She also presents interviews from plaintiffs in the Brown case and their descendants, who speak about the case's significance. Event is free to students and the public, with sign language interpretation being available upon advance request.

Darth Nadar

By Owen Jarvis
Staff Writer

In the 2000 presidential elections, Ralph Nadar's motivations were pretty clear. In the eyes of his Green Party backers he was making a valiant stand against the corporate "Republicrats" of the exclusive two-party political machine, representing the true other half of America's political dichotomy. With his history of fighting for consumers' rights and his ability to paint a nightmarish picture of the current political climate, he got the Green Party on 44 state ballots and garnered 2.7 percent of the popular vote nationwide, respectable feats for a third party. His supporters believed that his potential to make a bold statement about political exclusivity outweighed his potential to be a spoiler.

That is, until he actually was the spoiler. A mere 537 recounted votes in Florida granted George W. Bush the presidency in an election when he lost the popular vote by more than a half-million. Those 537 votes were ones that might have gone to Gore had Nadar not been in the election. The Greens' innocent desire to make American politics more inclusive to third parties while shedding light on particularly grievous issues had in the most hideous of ways bit them in the ass, indirectly facilitating the dubious victory of their arch nemesis. However much Greens went on the defensive blaming Gore and the Florida recount, it was clear that Nadar unintentionally caused Bush's victory, which stigmatized him with much of the left.

And now, after his last presidential run which proved that third parties can in fact have a bearing on an election, after three years of Bush's inexorable reign of "terror" which Nadar, bless his heart, helped usher in, and after parting ways with his very own Green Party, Nadar has decided to run for president again.

Why? There are several possible explanations. One is that he still believes he can best serve his country and change things for the better through a presidential run. However, based on the quantitative evidence of the 2000 election, that motivation is dubious, unless his sanity is dubious as well. The evidence is that he cannot and will not win. There are indeed many left-wingers who like Nadar are furious with Bush, but anger can only get a guy so far (see Howard Dean). On that point, many on the left are still furious with Nadar for his role in the last election. On top of that, he no longer has an established movement to provide him with any measure of momentum.

Another explanation is that he is vain and power hungry. That theory falters like the first, though, because chances are he will come upon any power. Given that, the notion that he is as corrupt and misguided as he says everyone else is yields an interesting possibility. Perhaps the right wing has bought him out and is planting him in the race to help Bush out a second time. Lack of evidence needn't hurt this theory, as Bush has proved that lack of evidence can in good faith be summarily overlooked.

Whatever his motivation, Nadar is doing nothing but hurting the left. Any good intentions are overshadowed by the looming cloud of a second Bush term in office that he may help secure. The left must consolidate and unify in order to better face Bush. There will be no ultra-right wing candidate subtracting votes from Bush, for Bush is ultra-right wing already, so why should the left have to suffer? This action by Nadar is deleterious to the left and makes him an unfortunate enemy; he was Anakin Skywalker but has by his own doing become Darth Nadar. The 2004 election looks to be very close, and if Nadar garners anywhere near as much support as he did in the last election, we should all brace ourselves for "Bush Wars, Episode III: Attack of Everyone Else."

An explanation, an apology

By Shane Jacobus
Staff Writer

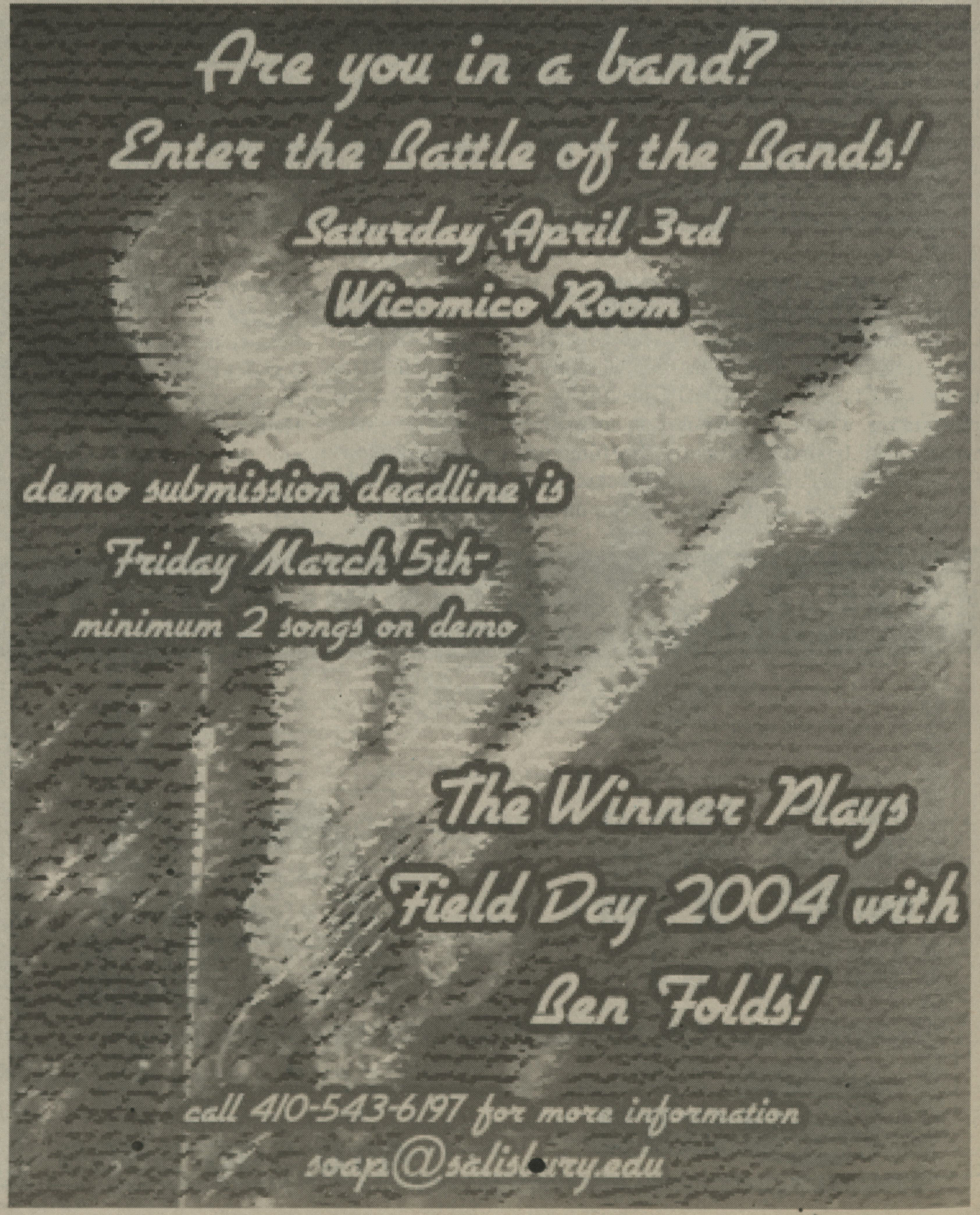
I understand that a lot of people were deeply offended by my article, "Gay marriage equals socialism." For that, I apologize. I admit that it wasn't infallible, as Dr. Karen Rayne and others pointed out in their letter to the editor. In fact, I knew that before I submitted the article to the editorial staff. But to be perfectly honest, it was my intention to get people all riled up. That's why I picked such a risqué title. And as Becki pointed out, "Freedom of speech means freedom for even inflammatory opinions."

I am against gay marriage, and civil marriages in general, but I am not running any crusade to do away with it as I had proposed in my article. I was merely speaking my mind, when I wrote that article. And as Becki also pointed out, it was just *my* opinion and not the editors'.

So, if anybody found it blatantly offensive, you should approach me for writing it and not the staff for publishing it. If anybody wants to give me a piece of their mind, feel free to e-mail me at my GroupWise account: sj39806

I can take criticism.

Editor's note: We at the Flyer encourage our readers to respond to Shane if necessary, but we also encourage them to directly write us as well: flyer@salisbury.edu



Letters to the Editor

The "Suck up to Salisbury" initiative

Dear Flyer:

To start with, I want to apologize if this letter turns into a bit of a rant. However, it raises my ire when I see our illustrious president Dudley-Eshbach's new "Suck up to Salisbury" initiative. Why should we kiss the City of Salisbury's ass when they obviously don't want us here? The 4 to 2 issue is just the most visible sign of the City's racial profiling type effort at persecuting college students.

In her friendly little speech Eshbach mentions as a little side note that $400 a month in rent is "a huge dilemma." Then she completely trivializes that by saying that "Students have a way of affording to live where they want to live." Who is she referring to? I know I can barely afford to live in a crappy house I don't like for $300 a month including utilities! What kind of independently wealth students can cough up the extra dough to live in the same hole of a house I live in, or even worse, in a concentration camp like University Park? If we all had that kind of money we wouldn't be going to school now would we? So I guess we're all supposed to go out and work more hours at minimum wage jobs to pay for the extra rent. How is Eshbach going to feel when GPA's fall because everyone has to go out and work just to have a roof over their head while they're in school? Sounds like some propaganda to me.

Now I'll be the first to admit that there are quite a few students out there who party too much and piss off the "law abiding" citizens of Salisbury, something which I myself have been guilty of a time or two. However, packing everyone into University Park like sardines is going to exacerbate the problem. The city is just going to end up with more riots and police coming out with pepper spray and attack dogs like the UP riot of a few years ago. Instead of catching serial rapists and crack dealers, the cops are out searching for parties to bust. On more than one occasion the police have forced their way into my house for a noise complaint. Since when did being noisy remove your constitutional protection against illegal search and seizure? Of course not all the cops are assholes, in fact most of them are quite agreeable if you treat them with respect and are polite. However with increased focus on keeping the drunken miscreants that apparently make up all SU students at bay, the police are bound to take more liberties with our civil liberties.

On to the real issue, why should we stick up our noses at the city government? We keep this city running. This school constitutes one third of the city population and contributes $140 million a year to the city economy. Our graduates provide a highly skilled labor force and the current students provide cheap labor for local businesses. Just think of how many businesses wouldn't be around without our cheap labor and disposable incomes? Look at Brew River, The Bottle Factory, Cheers, and Thirsty's; where would they be without college students? Ok, maybe those aren't the best examples for this argument. However look at the local construction industry. I have been here for the better part of five years and the entire time I've been in Salisbury there has been a major SU related construction project ongoing from Henson to UP. We are supporting the economy of Salisbury both directly and indirectly.

What kind of idiotic government tries to ostracize and trivialize one third of its population? Oh yeah there was Nazi Germany, the US during segregation, and Iraq with the Kurds. Maybe these examples are a little extreme due to the violent nature of the oppression, however the concept is the same. The government is taking advantage of a minority group and stepping on their civil rights. In Salisbury, we students are treated as second class citizens by our own government. Our backwards city government is instituting a form of legalized segregation by removing a non-protected minority group from the general population. 4 to 2 is plain and simple segregation. The asinine people in this community who think that packing all the college students into crappy, expensive apartments will get rid of the small percentage of trouble makers are sadly mistaken.

Finally, our backwards city government should be kissing our asses. The revenue that SU brings in and the taxes that we pay are what unfortunately pays their salaries. What Salisbury needs is to start a lobbying group to get some intelligent people into the city government that aren't anti-student. Christ we could make a class for poli-sci majors on lobbying and have them do it. Fact is this school is never going to be accepted in the community until the city government recognizes our economic importance, and we stop letting them run rough shod over our rights and students. Dudley-Eshbach shouldn't have to pander to our city government of anti-student zealots, she should lay down the law and let them know how it is, that they need us more than we need them.

Aaron Neal
MBA student

The real defense of marriage

Dear Flyer:

For the past two weeks, this publication has run articles relating to the issue of gay marriage. I am personally not one to stand up and be an activist for a cause but as I read the articles opposing marriage I am dumbfounded to hear some of the reasons they use for opposing gay marriage. I cannot sit idle while people give away their opinions, and state facts that are not even valid in a publication dedicated to sharing the truth.

A common excuse in most of the previous articles was religion; that God and the Bible condemn it. I am not looking to say that religion is a joke or to knock anyone who has strong beliefs in a faith based community. All I am going to say is that in this country our forefathers set forth the edict that the government should and will be a separate entity from any religious institutions. We have followed this logic for over 200 years, even going so far as to fight that the words "under God" in the pledge of allegiance are unconstitutional. Now on the issue of gay marriage, whether you support it or not, religion or the bible can have no authority in the legal right of gays to marry. The first amendment reads that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." So for anyone to say the government needs to ban homosexual marriage because "God says so" needs to answer the question: do you value the constitutional protection of your right to gather and share your religion with others? If we are going to use the Constitution to discriminate against people over religious topics, then religious organizations should have no protection under it. You cannot use the Constitution for protection for some and for discrimination against others. In fact, religion need not even play a role in marriage because when you file for and sign a marriage license in this country you are legally married, and entitled to all 1,049 benefits that come with it. You do not have to get the blessing of a church or a religious institution. I will leave the religious debate up to you and approach the rest of this article from a legal standpoint.

There is no contest that the Declaration of Independence declares that "All men are created equal" and declares that all people have the right to "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Well, the US Supreme Court has stated, "The freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men." To take that right to marry away from anyone would be to take away that free man's inalienable right to happiness. It's as simple as that. Take away the rights of any person is this country, and you deny those inalienable rights protected under the Declaration of Independence.

The people who oppose gay marriage also like to bring children, and what makes a good loving parent, into the debate. President Bush recently said in his State of the Union Speech that it is urgent for us as a country to codify marriage as a man and a women to protect our children. To ratify a constitutional amendment that declares marriage between a man and woman would send the message to children that it is OK to give benefits to some and not to others. Is that what you are trying to codify; bigotry and discrimination?

They say that a child needs a man and a woman to grow up "right." What about the single parent families in this country? What about the children who grow up in foster care or orphanages? Are they not good enough? Are those children raised by a mom and a grandmother going to be abnormal because they didn't have a male in their life? How about the children in foster care? Obviously this country produces good children from single and non traditional families. On the other hand some of the worst in this country were raised by a man and a woman. How do you explain that?

The issue was also brought up that since it has always been a man and a woman it should just stay that way. If anyone were to do just a little research on the internet or a history text they would find this to be false. In many ancient cultures gay marriage was allowed including ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, as well as Australia, Europe, and India. In 1964 a tomb of a same sex couple Niankhkhnum and Khnumhotep was discovered in the necropolis of Egypt. A Yale historian, John Boswell, recently wrote a book that "demonstrates that Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches both sanctioned and sanctified unions between partners of the same sex, until modern times. The churches used ceremonies which were very similar to conventional heterosexual ceremonies." So marriage throughout time has had several different forms, not just man and woman. Besides, if we used this as a basis for our laws we could still have slavery, polygamy, and no women would have the right to vote.

My final argument is going to address civil unions and the people who believe they are good enough for gays. For this I simply refer you to segregation of public schools. The courts said that separate but equal was not good enough, and it wouldn't be equal until all children had the same access to education. This is no different; the world will never be equal until everyone has equal access.

This is the final frontier of the civil rights movement. Our country grants freedom and rights to all people of all backgrounds. People come to America to find the American Dream lets keep that dream alive for ALL Americans not just those "lucky" enough to be straight.

Justin Hennaut

In response to 'The wounding of marriage'

Dear Flyer:

I would like to first thank Eric Colvin for presenting a calm and polite argument in his letter "The Wounding of Marriage." I would, however, like to take exception to some of the points he has made and offer my own on this very sensitive issue.

In essence, it is a very simple matter of rights and the laws in place to protect them. Everyone knows that freedom of speech gives people the right to say just about anything they want. These same people also know and accept that exceptions occur when those words cause harm to someone or infringe on the basic rights of those people. Indeed, this is the case with many of the rights in our country, and the laws established to protect those rights. Laws are enacted to protect people from other people who would infringe upon their rights, be they moral, financial, familial, etc. I have not heard one solid argument as to how gay marriage infringes on the rights of others, yet our government still has laws that "protect" society from this supposed ill.

To counter this argument, opponents of gay marriage argue that children are harmed by families that have a same-sex couple in them. This assertion is based on the concept that children need a strong male and strong female role model in order to grow up as healthy individuals. While I can understand why some may believe this to be true, it has always been my understanding that the most important thing a parent could give to a child was not a gender identity, but rather love. Indeed, while Mr. Colvin wrote that "Research has shown that children need both a mother and a father," he failed to account for the other research that shows that the most important factor is that the parents show love and care for the child. Furthermore, if there is genuine fear that same sex-couples will harm the development of children, then the marriage rights of every murderer, rapist and poor person should be revoked as well. After all, it is common sense that a murderer or rapist would make a poor father and it is a proven fact that children of parents at lower socioeconomic levels are more at risk for a variety of social ills including teen pregnancy, drug use and lower test scores.

Of course, no one is lobbying to make those changes, and now we must examine why. An argument offered by opponents of same-sex marriage is that marriage is vital to the procreation of the species. Even if that procreation is the result of the conjoining of the most unrepeatable folk, as long as it is between man and a women it is okay. This belief runs into problems, though, when we consider the great number of men and women who either choose not to have children or are unable to have children. If we follow the logic that marriage is a vessel for procreation, then these people should be prohibited from marriage as well.

Mr. Colvin also touched upon the traditional aspect of the concept of marriage when he cited the Ancient Greek story that male and female halves were constantly searching for each other and that marriage was the rebinding of these halves. What Mr. Colvin fails to note, however, is that while the Ancient Greeks might have told this story, they did not practice it. Indeed, while it was common among well established Greek men to get married, it was equally as common for them to then turn away their female companion and turn instead to the companion of a male boy. Indeed, many of these men saw the act of procreation with a woman to be a loathsome task and preferred instead the company of boys whom they would take under their wing and tutor and many times have sexual relations with. This practice was known as pederastia, and was not only common in Greece, but also expected. Thus, if we are to accept marriage as a "traditional" construct based on its prevalence in Greek society, then we must also view homosexuality as "traditional."

Mr. Colvin also argues marriage to be a sacred thing, sanctioned by some higher being. While he certainly is entitled to his belief, his does not necessarily match that of other same-sex or heterosexual couples out there. Indeed, he writes on marriage vow, stating that "without basing your vows on a higher authority, what good are those vows," and thus submits that marriage is an act consecrated primarily on an oath to God. If this is indeed true, then it is problematic. Consider the atheist who does not believe in a God and thus is unable to vow to a God in the bonds of matrimony. While many of us may not follow the atheistic belief, none of us is trying to deny an atheist's right to marry, unless of course, the atheist happens to be homosexual.

While I appreciate Mr. Colvin's tone, I cannot appreciate his argument. Even as a perfectly heterosexual man, I find his arguments greatly weakened when faced with real, rational scrutiny. Indeed, his arguments seem to ignore the fact that homosexuality is an inborn trait and as such, cannot be discriminated again. Many think that people choose to be homosexual, but I ask all of those people to consider why millions of people would choose a life that is wrought with fear, hatred, discrimination and misunderstanding. It is not logical to assume that people choose to be homosexual as there is little to gain from making such a "choice." Thus if it is not a choice then it is a trait. Since we do not embrace a culture that discriminates against other people with various traits such as skin color, hair color, or sex, then we cannot in good conscience discriminate against those who have homosexuality as one of their traits. Just as we would not discriminate against the man born sterile by telling him he may never marry, we cannot discriminate against the couple born homosexual who want to marry. It is contradictory to the nature of this free and equal society that we have created in the USA, and like all discrimination, it is detrimental to our civilized society as well.

Tom Hamill
Senior

...And why not?

Wait, I'm confused. Are we in America, do we have a constitutional separation between church and state, and isn't discrimination illegal? (The answers are yes.) Then why, in regard to same sex marriages, do all those opposed succeed infallibly to cite religious doctrine for reasons gays should be denied marriage certificates? We all know how most churches feel about gays, let alone gay marriages. But I'm not condemning organized religion here. The point of contention is not with church, it's with government. Traditional marriage has been slipping for a while as Colvin states in "The Wounding of Marriage." However, that's not the gay community's problem, nor is it their fault. The decline of the state of traditional marriage is a situation much older than the gay rights movement. If you're concerned with the heteros' problems like the high divorce rate and children born out of wed-lock, look to your parents' generation and their churches respectively for their failed indoctrinations. The right-winged logic that gays are undermining traditional marriage and causing the pestilence that's befallen our heterosexual culture is absurd. Those in opposition to gay marriage seem to forget that gays are unable to divorce or have children; these are problems propagated by the heterosexual population. Eric Colvin admits he's scared "about the direction it (marriage) is headed in our country." I, M. Evans, never had an opinion until I read "Gay marriage equals socialism" and its narrow-minded perception of reality. I support Colvin's statement, "Let Salisbury University be the place where the revival of logic and common sense begins."

Denying a group of individuals civil rights because of that characteristic which sets them apart is discrimination and prejudice at their worst because in this case no one is willing to admit that's what it is. –This is a challenge.– I challenge SU students to THINK. I charge the future of this country to ask questions like *why* and *why not*. And I challenge those opposed to granting equal rights to all Americans to furnish a reason – one logical, legal explanation <u>outside of religious doctrine</u> why two people of the same sex shouldn't be allowed a marriage certificate. (This is a secular nation regardless of what the Christian majority may think.)

And I'll shoot down a few reasons here: 1. The decline of traditional marriage; 2. Detrimental effects on children; 3. Gays are too promiscuous; 4. They're bad people; and 5. Because it's like ew! *These are not valid reasons because*: 1. It's straight people's fault for the decline of straight people's values; 2. Anything new and novel is a valuable learning experience for children; 3. Heteros can be slutty too; 4. They're NOT bad people; and 5. "ew!" is subjective.

Colvin said it best, he's scared. I believe a great many others are scared too. Ask yourself *why* people are worried and evaluate those responses. (Do it quietly though or you'll look crazy.) Evaluate your own beliefs and try to answer my challenge in your head before writing a response to mine. You may be surprised how ridiculous your reasoning sounds to an impartial ear. Thank you and try to keep an open mind.

M. Evans
Sophomore

Still defending hetero marriage

Dear Editor,

In response to Eric's article in last week's issue, I would like to say how it's nice to see that there are people who still support the protection of marriage between a man and a woman. One of the interesting points of the article was that Paul Nathanson, a person who is openly gay and fully understands the gay lifestyle, thought same sex marriage was not a good idea.

The illegal marriages that have been taking place for the past few weeks in San Francisco are disturbing me. In the words of Bill O'Reilly, "that is anarchy," seeing as it is clearly against California law, yet they are being permitted. It is dangerous when elected officials begin to neglect the laws set forth by the government they stand for. I find it interesting how homosexuals are quick to point out how not allowing them to get married is illegal according to the constitution, yet they do not mind being illegally married. Is that not hypocritical?

One of the major issues I have with gay marriage is that it opens up the door for gay couples to adopt children. I believe this could be very detrimental to the raising of children in our country. Not being able to grow up with both a mother and father figure in the home is not fair to a child.

Lastly, a union between two men or two women is simply not natural. When you think about it logically, it was just not how we were created. One of the options of marriage has always been to have children and start a family, whether a couple chooses to do so or not. A homosexual couple simply does not have the option to do this due to obvious reasons.

It is encouraging to see that there are still people who are noticing the direction in which marriage is headed and what to protect it as it has been for thousands of years. I simply believe gay marriage would have negative impacts on family and open the door up for all different types of ways to define a marriage.

Ryan Fields

The 'whole' story about homosexuality

Dear Flyer,

First, I want to respond to something I read in the Feed about the President not attending the Vagina Monologues. Dr. J's brother has been having some serious health problems, so she has been spending a lot of time in the hospital with him. I don't know for sure if this is why she wasn't in attendance, but it is a very good possibility. Dr. J is extremely supportive of the student body on this campus. For two years, I was in charge of planning Earth Day and Homecoming, and she not only came to those events, she helped me when I was having problems with a couple departments on the days of the events. Dr. J loves the students on this campus, and now is the time for us to show our support of her.

Next I would like to respond to Eric Colvin's letter about same-sex marriage. To begin, I want to point out that he left out part of the myth he began with. The story comes from Plato's "Symposium" and does indeed discuss a being with both male and female natures that was divided into halves. These halves became men and women, and were constantly searching for their other half. However, there is more to it. Before the beings were cut in half, there were three genders: man, woman, and androgynous. When they were cut in half, the men created two men, the women created two women, and the androgynous beings created one man and one woman. After they were cut in half, the beings were constantly in search of their other half. "...The women who are a section of the woman do not care for men, but have female attachments; the female companions are of this sort. But they who are a section of the male follow the male, and while they are young, being slices of the original man, they hang about men and embrace them, and they are themselves the best of boys and youths, because they have the most manly nature. Some indeed assert that they are shameless, but this is not true; for they do not act thus from any want of shame, but because they are valiant and manly, and have a manly countenance, and they embrace that which is like them. And these when they grow up become our statesmen, and these only, which is a great proof of the truth of what I am saying." Now, it goes on to say that halves of beings that were originally men or women do not marry, but the point is, it also indicates that homosexuality is natural, and not a choice. Funny how we have a tendency to edit out the parts we don't like, and twist something to support what we want it to. Eric stated that the institution of marriage is as old as time. So is slavery. We were wrong to believe that people are less deserving of equal rights based on the color of their skin. We are wrong in our belief that only two people of the opposite sex should share the institution of marriage.

Now, I could go through and respond point-by-point to everything that was said, but I'm going to try to limit it to the ones that I feel are most important. For instance, the court ruling saying marriage is "uniquely involving the procreation and rearing of children within a family." Does this mean heterosexual couples who can't have children, or just don't want to shouldn't be permitted to be married? There are plenty of them out there, and I don't think they would be happy to know that they shouldn't be allowed to get married because of something out of their control or a personal choice they made for themselves.

"If the government were to allow gay marriage, marriage would cease to exist as this sacred union; without basing your vows on a higher authority, what good are those vows?" First, there is a separation of church and state. Marriage, especially in this case, is a legal matter, and while there are many people who base their vows on a higher authority, there are also many who don't. Some people do not believe in any higher authority. Does this mean their vows don't mean anything? Marriage is supposed to be about loving your partner, and wanting to spend the rest of your life with that partner. Sometimes that love is based on a common love of God or whatever higher authority the two people believe in, and sometimes it isn't. And as far as it being a sacred union, well, as long as people can be intoxicated and get married in an Elvis Chapel in Vegas, how sacred can it really be?

"Research has shown that children need both a father and a mother." I think research would show that children need to feel loved and supported and cared for, regardless of the gender or number of parents in their lives. aren't. I think we can all agree that marrying a child is wrong because the child isn't ready to be married, or old enough to choose what he or she wants. I think we can also agree that marrying a blood relative is wrong, because IF the sexual relationship between the two people resulted in a pregnancy, there is a much higher risk of birth defects and mental retardation due to the increased number of genetic similarities between the two parents. Then, of course, there is marrying someone who is already married. Whether you want to look at it from a legal standpoint or "protecting the sanctity of marriage" doesn't change that it is wrong. Legally, there are benefits and rights that come from marriage, and you can only have those benefits and rights as a result of a marriage to one person. As far as the institution of marriage is concerned, it is supposed to be about loving one person, and dedicating yourself to that person, and you can't do that when you are trying to share it with two different people. It just doesn't work. Not to mention the fact that no one is born with a sexual orientation towards children, blood relatives or people who are already married. Now, I'm sure there are some people who are angry or offended by the comment I just made. There are still many people who feel homosexuality is a choice. Let me ask those people this: Who in their right mind would choose a life where they will constantly have to face harassment, oppression, discrimination, and possibly even death? This is discrimination. The law may apply to everyone, but a straight person is not going to want to marry another person of the same sex. While we (heterosexuals) may still be the norm in this country, we have a responsibility as the majority to protect the rights of the minority as well. Who are we to tell a person whom they can and cannot marry? If no one is getting hurt, both people are consenting adults, and neither of them are already married, why do are we arrogant enough to believe that we can tell them they can't marry the person they love? I thought EVERYONE is entitled to the pursuit of happiness. Unfortunately, that just isn't true in this country right now. Some of you are probably wondering whether or not I believe in God. I do. I do not believe that God is against gay marriage. But that isn't the point. Marriage is a legal issue. The government cannot force churches to perform same-sex marriages and the church cannot force the government to recognize the same-sex marriages it performs. They are two separate issues. So which point do you want to argue? I'm up for both. But pick one at a time. As long as we still have separation of church and state, quoting the Bible when arguing against, or for same-sex marriage is pointless. It comes down to law, and whether or not we are willing to stand by and watch people in this country attempt to pass an outlandish, discriminatory, narrow-minded constitutional amendment. I'm not. Maybe one day we will deserve the title "Land of the free," but right now we don't. I agree with Eric in one respect. "Let Salisbury University be the place where the revival of logic and common sense begins." It is time to open our eyes, hearts, and minds to how hateful and discriminatory the definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman is. It is time to stop fearing what we don't understand. It is time to step up and become the great country we think we are.

Pam Hires
Member of SGA

Editorial Policy

The Flyer is looking for editorials, comments and opinions from SU students, staff, and members of the Salisbury community. If you have something you would like to say, please send it as a word attachment to our email account, addressed "Letter to the Editor".

Letters to the editor should be brief. All letters are reviewed, but space does always not permit publishing every letter. Letters MUST include a full name and should be signed or sent with a phone number for verification. Students should include their year, major, and affiliation. Faculty should include their departments and affiliation. upon receipt.

The Flyer reserves the right to edit or refuse all materials submitted for publication based on clarity, space and appropriateness. *The Flyer* does not print letters of congratulation.

Opinion articles, letters to the editor and cartoons in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this staff or anyone connected with SU. Commentary written by members of our staff reflect the opinion of that writer and/or editor, and not necessarily the entire editorial board. *The Flyer* welcomes any responses to editorials published in the paper as long as it is in a timely manner.

The Feed

Gay Marriage

If you have a belief that there should be a constitutional amendment against gay marriage, you should be aware that at some point in the future you will look like an idiot.

Look at the United States' history of oppressing minorities, and see how it turned out in the court of public opinion:

Native Americans: Not too good.

Slavery: Looks pretty bad, Uncle Sam, not good on a resume.

Jim Crow Laws: Got to be kidding me.

Opposition to adopt women's rights: Sexist bastards.

Opposition to civil rights movement: Dumbasses.

So why is it so hard for people to see how this gay rights movement is going to look in 30 years?

Even if you don't support gay marriage you will have to realize that eventually, this will be accepted.

And America will not be turned into Sodom or some other lawless society because of it. Church will still be on Sundays and mom's appl pie will still taste the best.

A constitutional amendmen banning gay marriage is an exampl of a president overstepping hi bounds. President Cheney (we a know who's running the show) sai in 2000 that the issue of marriag will remain with the states.

I wonder how Mary Cheney, Dic Cheney's lesbian daughter, feel about her fathers' betrayal.

Campus Life

As a rebuttal to last week' comment about President Dudley Eshbach's absence at VDAY events I would like to state, for the recorc that the president's absence was du to a very tragic family emergenc that called her from campus las Friday afternoon, NOT because sh is unsupportive of SU students c events.

Miscellaneous

Katian Day = One of the bestes holidays ever...Only because it wa spent with good friends.

Overheard: "What do you do or where do you go to have fun in Salisbury?"

Compiled by Justin Hennaut
Staff Writer
Photography by Carla Pini
Layout Editor

"Hide and seek in Walmart."
—Chris Aitken

"Usually just hangin' over my friend's place."
—Elliot Pisner

"Tuesday- Bottle Factory. Thursday- Brew River."
—John Buckley

"We go to Walmart and pick up baking supplies."
—Jody Bond and Amy Rada

"Party, when there's something going on."
—Cindy Jusino

"I actually study most of the time…I'm a dork."
—LeeAnne Janney

"Play pranks."
—Joe Graper

"I go to Brew River."
—Jacquie Tolan

Fun things to do in Ocean City in the winter

By: Lucia Michel
Staff Writer

Sun, sand and swimming are all enjoyable aspects of summertime in Ocean City. But if you visit Ocean City in the off-season, you may be hard pressed to find any of the usual amusements. So next time you find yourself bored on the boardwalk in the dead of winter, try one of these fun ideas.

Editor's Note: The Flyer *is not responsible for repercussions to anyone who actually takes our writer's advice.*

1. Make anatomically correct sand snowmen.
2. Put on a bathing suit and sunglasses. Grab a beach chair, towel and suntan lotion. Sunbathe as you ride the bus up and down Coastal Highway. Occasionally ask other riders how your tan is coming along.
3. Dress up as Sammy Seagull. Try to blend in with the other seagulls and steal people's food.
4. Pay someone off to "accidentally" trip into one of the elaborate sand sculptures.
5. Pretend you are in "28 Days Later" and roam the abandoned streets yelling and searching for signs of life. Loot and pillage.
6. Beg rides off of all the local cops. If they refuse, throw yourself down in front of their car and throw a temper tantrum complete with kicking and screaming.
7. Play air guitar and sing loudly and off key on the corner for change.
8. Go swimming.
9. Hide in trashcans. When people throw trash in, throw it back out at them. If they come over to investigate, angrily ask them, "What does this look like to you? A dump?"
10. Set up a tent in front of the rides. When people ask what you are doing tell them that you were here first and they had better not try to cut in line.
11. Count the number of boards in the boardwalk.
12. Dress up like a mime. Stand on a corner and do the "invisible box" routine. Suddenly, remember you are claustrophobic and start screaming for someone to come let you out.
13. When you get arrested for doing any of the above, make friends with everyone in jail. Offer to buy them all a round if they help you stage a jail-break.

Photos by Lucia Michel

"Passion" graphic and beautiful

By Kat Hess
Staff Writer

It is hard to talk about the movie, "The Passion of the Christ," without talking about the ending. So if for some reason, you do not know what happens to Jesus Christ, and plan on seeing the film, I suggest you read no further.

"The Passion of the Christ", directed by Mel Gibson, has become a particularly difficult film to review, at least in my case. The reason being, I do not know if I liked the movie because it was a well-depicted film or because it is a punch in the gut of emotion and powerful imagery.

The film is about the last twelve hours of Jesus Christ's (James Caviezel) mortal life, starting off with Jesus praying in Gethsemane and ending in his death. Ironically, the film starts off with no subtitles, which was what Mel Gibson originally wanted. During the actual movie, subtitles are included, with the dialogue being spoken completely in Aramaic and Latin. However, there are spans of time during the film that have none, while there are clearly people speaking to one another.

Satan (Rosalinda Celentano) appears in the beginning scene and is threaded throughout the movie. The idea that he is always tempting, always watching, waiting, is beautifully crafted. He only briefly appears to Judas (Luca Lionello) who, after betraying Jesus, receives his own share of visual demons, some, quite disturbing.

One of the more interesting choices "The Passion of the Christ" makes deals with Pontius Pilate (Hristo Shopov) and Caiphas (Mattia Sbragia). The idea of Pilate being conflicted over having Jesus crucified was played out quite well, to the point where one might actually like the man. However, Caiphas, the man who was a high priest, leads viewers to believe he was the villain, making it is easy to see why there has been a big uproar about the picture's possible anti-Semitism.

A major scene in the film, depicting the crowd yelling for Jesus to be crucified, seemed to be led by Jews. Yet, there were also Jews in the film who did not agree with the idea, such as Simon. He helped Jesus carry the cross, and defended him, after he fell. A reasonable viewer will look at the film and not believe it was Jews who condemned Jesus to the cross, but humanity.

There are several lines that make reference to Jesus understanding that he is to die. As believed by Christians, Jesus was indeed the Messiah, and could have, at anytime, gotten out of being crucified. The presence of Satan was a reference to this idea, that he rejected the choice. He was supposed to die and he died for everyone's sins.

"The Passion of the Christ" is not made to convert people, in fact, there are very few instances of his supreme power (though, there are some). The film is about everything including the cruelty of humans, the suffering of one man and the explanation of Christianity. I am a Christian and for me the movie was about showing me just why I had this belief; it did what years of Sunday school failed to do. However, for non-Christians, I imagine it could get across the message of why people devote their life to the religion, not necessarily make them believe it is the right choice, but give an understanding. The pain and anguish one man suffered is a powerful image.

Now, this review cannot go without mentioning the graphic nature of the film. It is more or less why the movie is so effective. I am quite surprised the film did not warrant an NC-17 rating due to certain scenes. The whipping scenes alone were extremely hard to watch and this is coming from someone who ate popcorn during "Kill Bill," weapons of torture ripping out skin, in some places, to the point of seeing muscle.

There is a scene where a man's eyes are gouged out by a bird, a suicide, a decaying donkey with maggots infesting it, and of course, Jesus actually being crucified. By no means is this a film for the squeamish. I took note of the many people looking away, slightly jumping in their seats and the many intakes of breath during the movie. I truly only saw 98% of the movie, because I couldn't force myself to look at a few shots. This is quite a shame because as violent as these scenes are, they are tragically beautiful. Not to say that I think torture is a beautiful thing, but raw emotion is. The pain in Mary's (Maia Morgenstern) eyes as she watches her son is such a haunting image. She has very few lines, but the minute she sees her son fall, one cannot help but think about the internal pain she is suffering, the performance brings such beauty to the film.

Image courtesy Yahoo!

Caviezel painfully bears the cross in Gibson's picture.

Caviezel is utterly heart wrenching, which may be because he was accidently whipped twice during filming. Every moment you are feeling for this man. He is not some supernatural being, he is a human, and no human should ever have to suffer like that. The intensity brought on by the performances, the language, the cinematography, the score, the directing, is overpowering, which, using my previous word, is a beautiful thing.

Mel Gibson's "The Passion of Christ" is certainly a movie worth seeing. If you have a problem with graphic and violent scenes, I suggest at least trying to watch them. It is extremely hard to do, but there is a point to them. You are supposed to feel like you got slugged in the stomach by the end of this movie, or even during the first twenty minutes of it. As I mentioned earlier, as much praise as I give the film, I am still undecided on how I actually rate it. After writing this, I feel like I may have liked it more than I originally thought, but I will probably never watch it again. The experience of watching this was a hard one, but one I feel better for having.

Box Office Results Feb. 27-29

	Weekend	Total
1. "The Passion of the Christ"	76.20 mil	117.54 mil.
2. "50 First Dates"	12.60 mil.	88.72 mil.
3. "Twisted"	9.10 mil	9.10 mil.
4. "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen"	6.10 mil	16.70 mil.
5. "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights"	5.9 mil	5.9 mil.

(Weekend/Total)

Coming To Campus

Mar. 5-7
"Love Actually"
5: 7 p.m. CH
6: 3 and 8 p.m. GUC
7: 7 and 10 p.m. CH
Mar. 12-14
"21 Grams"
12: 7 p.m. CH
13: 3 and 8 p.m. CH
14: 7 and 10 p.m. GUC
Apr. 2-4
"The Lord of the Rings" Trilogy
2: 7 p.m. CH
3: 3 and 8 p.m. CH
4: 7 and 10 p.m. GUC

Bada-Bing: HBO keeps "The Sopranos" on for two more Seasons

By Abby Smith
Staff Writer

Once you enter The Family, there is no getting out. Unless HBO decides your time is up, that is. Breach of contract and salary disputes spelled out the end for HBO's Emmy and Peabody Award-winning series about a fictitious Italian mob family, "The Sopranos."

James Gandolfini, who portrays the patriarch of the Soprano clan, Tony Soprano, along with his fellow cast members, demanded a salary increase. HBO denied the request despite the fact that Gandolfini has generally been considered severely underpaid compared to his fellow thespians on the network. Gandolfini then claimed that the network was at fault for not informing the cast of the date for the end of the series as was specified in his contract. Due to the salary dispute, and questionable procedure according to contract, HBO decided to end the series altogether. The network will premiere a full fifth season beginning on March 7, and air a partial, ten episode sixth season, which won't begin production until early 2005.

Ever since the fourth season, execs have been uncertain about whether or not the hit series would return. The uncertainty, and now, prolonging of the inevitable end may have been tactics used by the network to hype up the series and keep interest in the network alive as long as possible. With the recent departure of the popular "Sex and the City" from HBO's cache of hit original series, it is likely that executives were worried that network ratings would decline.

The fifth season will focus on Tony's separation from his wife, and the release of several key members from prison. Although there isn't a great deal of plot buzz being generated, one can be fairly confident that fans will eat up whatever creator David Chase and company turn out.

Concert Calendar

3/2- *The Grilled Lincolns*- Breaktime- Salisbury, MD
3/3- *James Brown*- 9:30 Club- Washington D.C.
3 /4- *Trapt/SmileEmptySoul* – 9:30 Club- Washington D.C
Pat McGee Band- Fletchers- Baltimore, MD
3/5- *Kelly Bell Band/Jah Works*- Recher Theatre- Baltimore, MD
3/6- *Written Prisms*- Adam's Ribs- Salisbury, MD
Ludacris- Electric Factory- Philadelphia, PA
3/7- *Mae/Copeland*- Wicomico Room- Salisbury University
3/13- *The Sandbox Bullies*- The Knights of Columbus- Salisbury, MD
4/3- Salisbury University's Battle of Bands

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have any comments,

Send them to:
The Flyer
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flyer@salisbury.edu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good News
For May Grads!
Grad Fair
March 8-11
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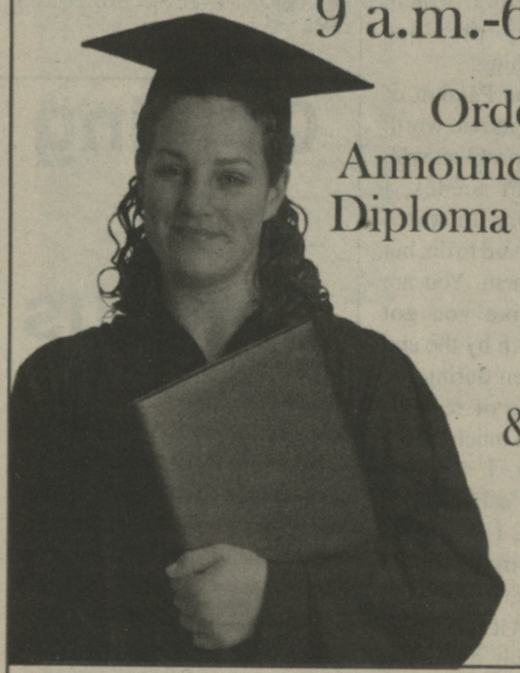

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Haiti President Steps Down
Jean-Bertrand Aristide stepped down last week from being President of Haiti after armed rebels took over control of much of the country. Aristide left the country Sunday morning as U.S. Marines have been ordered to the country. His term was not scheduled to end until 2006.

Howard Stern Pulled Off Radio
Clear Channel Communications, one of the nation's largest radio station providers, began a zero-tolerance policy by pulling off Howard Stern. Clear Channel suspended Stern in six markets after a review of the Feb. 24 show. The company stated they would no longer broadcast any material found offensive by FCC standards.

LOTR: ROTK conquers the Oscars
"Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" won 11 Oscars Sunday night, one for each nomination, picking up Best Picture and Best Director for Peter Jackson. "LOTR: ROTK" is now tied with "Titanic" and "Ben-Hur" for winning the most Academy Awards in one night. Other notable winners this weekend include Sean Penn as Best Actor and Charlize Theron as Best Actress.

And the Razzie goes to...
In the annual anti-Oscar, "Gigli" took home the Golden Raspberry for Worst Picture. The flop also garnered "victories" in the categories of Worst Actor and Actress for Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez. Also, in a new category, "Cat in the Hat" became the first winner of Worst Excuse for an Actual Movie.

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3. Winning contestants to be notified immediately by phone and email. Prize money can be claimed from GUC Information Desk. By entering, participants agree to have their picture taken fror future Sweepstakes promotions.
4. Contest held is a 50/50 raffle - one half of prize pot benefits The Flyer and The Evergreen, the rest goes to winning participant(s).
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BT GLASS members lobby in Annapolis for gay rights

by Tiffany Chestnut
Staff Writer

Del. Richard Madaleno and Equality Maryland recently invited a group of SU students and faculty, in addition to members of the surrounding community, to help lobby the state legislature to support gay rights. Members of BT GLASS, Lambda and Rainbow Room - the group for gay/lesbian/bisexual/trans-gendered (GLBT) people in the area - traveled to the capital Feb. 23 to help push for equal rights for same-sex couples in Maryland.

The cause of this movement is the introduction of several bills in late January, which could prove detrimental to GLBT people statewide. The proposed Defense of Marriage Act would refuse to acknowledge same-sex marriages performed in other states and would define marriages made in the state as unions between a man and a woman. A proposed hate crimes bill calls for stiffer penalties for crimes committed against people based on their sexual orientation and gender identification. The Medical Decision Making Act would allow same sex partners to gain access to tax benefits, hospital visitation rights, and inheritance rights. In addition to these, there is a movement to amend the federal and state constitutions to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Madaleno initially met with the Salisbury group and others from area colleges to discuss what it is like for GLBT people to live and work in a college environment. In briefing the group on the bills, he was adamant that they let their voices be heard. "It's the culture that changes the law, not the law that changes the culture," he said.

Flyer photo by Tiffany Chesnut

(From left) Bryan Horikami, Delegate Madaleno, and Jamie Lynn Smulian.

In his address, Madaleno disputed the Defense of Marriage Act specifically, while touting the Medical Decision Making Act. "It's not American to define in the law who you can and can't have a relationship with. Don't you think everyone deserves the right to decide who gets to visit [him or her] in the hospital? Don't enshrine discrimination in the law," he urged.

In fact, when discussing the idea of strengthening marriages, Madaleno pointed out what he saw as the real damaging elements to the institution of marriage. "If you want to save marriage, it's divorce you should get rid of—and then let's put something on the table about adultery. Those are true dangers to marriage," he said.

Lambda member Bryan Horikami, who spent the day lobbying in favor of the hate crimes bill and the Medical Decision Making Act, denounced the other instances of legislation as violations of simple human rights. "Bills such as these deny basic civil rights to law-abiding, tax-paying, moral people with family values," Horikami said.

Dr. Polly Stewart, a Lambda member who also attended, said she doubts the federal amendment will be passed. According to Stewart, the amendment is being used as a ploy to draw attention away from the White House's mistakes in other areas. "Consider how difficult it is to pass a constitutional amendment," she said. "The President is grandstanding. His handlers are banking on the short-term political value, in this election year, of drawing public attention away from the current administration's embarrassments in both foreign and domestic policy."

On the dangers of such a bill Stewart said, "The thought behind it is dangerous to all Americans. We are lucky that it is so difficult to pass a constitutional amendment. It is not the business of our constitution to regulate marriage."

Horikami agreed, saying the dangers were visible to heterosexuals as well. "Heterosexuals who see this as clearly a civil rights matter might be horrified at the thought that there are laws that deter a segment of our population from having the same access to benefits, and access to matters both public and private, based on the particular sex pairing of two loving people," he said.

Madaleno's speculation about the constitutional amendment was that it would never pass. "It has been proposed in the past, it has always died in the past," he said.

Stewart and Horikami were equally optimistic regarding the necessity for their campaigning efforts. "Doing this has at least placed a message in our representatives' ears that there are people who do not support legislation [against same sex couples] within their constituency," Horikami said.

"Legislators care about what their constituents think, but they can't know what we think unless we tell them. If they know we are out there, they will have us in mind," Stewart said.

Art of Living course brings a whole new meaning to life

By: Caroline Watson
Staff Writer

Every day attempts are made to do something good for the health of the body, whether it's eating healthy, working out, or getting a good night's sleep. Experts issue reminders to take care of the body, but rarely, if ever, to take care of the mind. SU's yoga club brings a course called Art of Living to campus in order to teach ways to take care from the inside out.

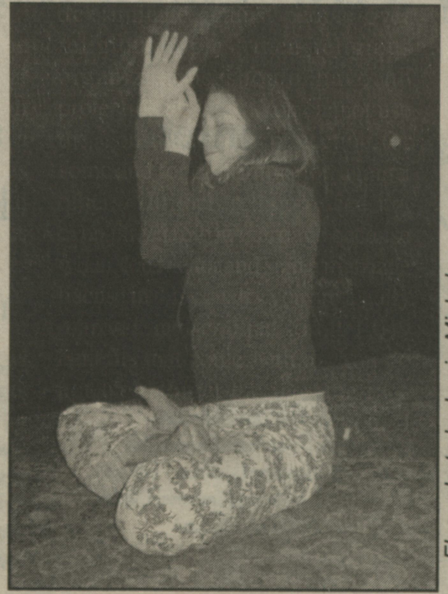
The Art of Living teaches such methods such as meditation, yoga, knowledge of how to live, and most importantly, breathing techniques. When taught correctly, these techniques, called Sudarshan and Kriya, help in releasing negative emotions, fear and anxiety.

The class has been offered in Salisbury for two and one-half years and goes on for a week. Senior Kate Bassett, president of the yoga club, explained that is important to attend all classes in order to gain the full benefit. According to Bassett, attending the course completely changed her life.

"It gives you more energy and a clearer mind. You drop bad habits, too," said Bassett.

She said that as one goes through the class there are transformations as if peeling off layers of stress. Every day there is something new that helps to create a balanced mind and even when it is over one will continue to grow and experience positive changes in life.

"Doing this stuff, like the breathing techniques and meditation, is like taking a shower for your mind," explained Bassett.



Flyer photo by Lucia Michel

Practicing yoga is one way to cure stress.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar founded the class in India 20 years ago. It's now a non-governmental organization and is taught all over the world, in 140 countries. According to Bassett, it is rare experience for Art of Living to come to Salisbury because of the campus's isolated location on the Eastern Shore. The certified Art of Living teacher, Ron Sharp, comes from Denver to teach in Salisbury. Bassett aspires to one day become a certified teacher.

SU recent graduate, Nikki Brown, took the class during her senior year. "It's taught me that it's important to be aware of how I feel and how my body is connected to my emotions," said Brown.

The course not only teaches how to take care of the body but it is also a great opportunity to meet others that share the same interests. Last year around 10 to 15 students attended, along with faculty and staff. The course is also open to the community. At the end of the class a potluck dinner is offered.

The great thing about the class is that participants can use what they learn in the class every day. It will be offered at the Penninsula Regional Medical Center March 4-9.

The Chesapeake Bay outdoors experience

By Jonathan Howard
Staff Writer

The sun dips slowly into the Chesapeake Bay, like an unusually patient child dunking his Chips Ahoy in a glass of milk. Janes Island soaks in its last purples, blues, oranges, yellows and reds for the day. A blue crab lazily swims sideways from beneath the shadows of the dock as a hundred geese hurry across the sinking horizon.

Seeking release in the bottom of a beer bottle every weekend can get old. Experiencing the outdoors can be a good change of pace from the ordinary weekend routine and a way to unwind after a long week of battling the stressors of academic life.

Salisbury University's Outdoor Club is a terrific way to get outside. Open to all students, the club routinely takes trips around the Eastern Shore and elsewhere in the mid-Atlantic. Hiking, canoeing, bicycling, kayaking and rock climbing are among the groups' activities. Students don't have to own any special equipment to be a member, and members are allowed to sign out equipment for their own weekend excursions.

English professor Dr. William Horne has been advisor to the club since 1981. He recently finished hiking his remaining sections of the 2200 mile Appalachian Trail despite requiring serious back surgery. His dedication to the Outdoor Club remains despite painful surgery and 23 years of practical jokes.

"These guys were sabotaging my life," said Horne, who has earned his trail name, Professor Hardcore.

For students who would rather embark on their own adventure, there are a number of places within a few hours of Salisbury which offer terrific camping, fishing, hunting, canoeing, kayaking and scenery. What Delmarva may lack in urban amenities, it makes up for in natural beauty.

Janes Island State Park is 30 miles southwest of Salisbury. It sits along the Chesapeake Bay, and there are a number of canoe and kayak trails. Boats of all types can be rented at the main office. It's a short ride over to the barrier beach, which offers an unspoiled sandy beach as well as a fish cleaning station on the dock.

Trap Pond State Park is west of Laurel, Del., about 20 miles north of Salisbury. The park surrounds a big lake whose notable inhabitants are giant box turtles, herons, frogs and the northernmost patch of bald cypress trees in the United States. Bald cypress are attractive trees that grow right in the water. Canoe and kayak trails lead deep into the woods, which countless animals inhabit. There are camping areas on the north side of the lake as well as several hiking trails.

Killens Pond State Park, surrounding the sizable Killens Pond, is about 45 miles north of Salisbury in Felton, Del. There are several nature trails, including one that winds around the perimeter of the pond. Camping facilities are well kept and more spread out than most state parks. Canoeing and kayaking on Killens pond can be an enjoyable experience.

Kiptopeke State Park is 95 miles south of Salisbury in Cape Charles, Va., along U.S. 13 just a few miles before the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. This park is located alongside the Chesapeake Bay and is among the top spots on the Eastern Shore for bird watching, especially in the migratory seasons. Campsites are within 50 yards of the beach. Swimming, boating and fishing are terrific at Kiptopeke.

Pokomoke River State Park is about 20 miles from Salisbury, south of Snow Hill, Md. It's actually two parks: Shad Landing, on the east side of the river, and Milburn Landing, a few miles down the river and on the west side. Canoeing along the Pocomoke is very popular and visitors have a good chance of seeing a bald eagle soaring overheard. Camping is also available at Milburn Landing.

The Flyer Presents... Real Campus Heroes, Part 6

Mr. Sixth Year Senior Guy

By: John Heath and Constance Mensh
Features and Photography Editors

Today we salute you, Mr. Sixth Year Senior Guy...You entered college as an undeclared innocent freshman, yet have developed into an astonishing triple threat of Exercise Science, Spanish and a little bit of Communication Arts...As you swipe your Original Salisbury State ID in the Commons, you can count on your grilled cheese sandwich exactly the way you like it, every time, because around here, everybody knows your name...You know all the nooks and crannies of this campus like hot butter knows an English muffin...While other students struggle each day to find a parking spot, thanks to years of practice, you have cleverly discovered the exact time each morning when a parking spot will be available...Seldom do you walk around campus without someone asking you, "Oh, you're still here??" ...You waited until your last semester to take Math and Culture, but your freshman classmates don't care; they look at you as that cool guy who can park on campus and drive them around while blinding them with your receding hairline...By taking an overwhelming course load of twelve credits, you've figured out how to successfully take classes only two days a week and party the other days...Some might call you the Life of Every Party or the Man with the Sixth Year Plan, but we just know you as That Old Dude...So crack open a cold one with your new freshman buddies, because you just bought them a case of beer.

SU Greeks dedicated to philanthropy

By David Raley
Staff Writer

An often overlooked aspect of Greek life is the dedication of its members to philanthropy. Contrary to popular stereotypes of partying and hazing, a great deal of the fraternities and sororities in America are involved in many community-benefiting activities. The fraternities and sororities of Salisbury University are no exception.

Although SU's individual philanthropic Greek chapters each participate in multiple charities, most pick a certain cause to focus on. This provides members with an opportunity to form personal relationships with those benefited by their particular charity.

On Saturday, March 13, the brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity will hold a 24 Hour Walkathon to benefit their special charity, Canine Companions for Independence. CCI is a nonprofit organization that provides specially trained dogs for people with disabilities. The dogs are trained to assist disabled children and adults in ways ranging from performing simple, every day tasks – such as opening doors or turning on a light switch – to lending ears for the hearing impaired. Naturally, the dogs also provide unconditional companionship to their new masters.

"Alpha Sigma Phi takes great pride in being an active participant and providing fundraising for the Canine Companions for Independence charity," said ASP brother Doug McKinnon, the fraternity's Business Coordinator for Philanthropy Events.

The sisters of Alpha Sigma Tau sorority engage in numerous philanthropies. However, the Pine Mountain Settlement School, located in Harlan County, Ky., is focus of their National Service Project. Every chapter of AST in the nation serves this foundation, and has helped the school to evolve from its humble beginnings into a sprawling environmental and educational center. AST's SU chapter also dedicates itself to programs such as Adopt-a-Highway, Adopt-a-Grandparent and Relay for Life - an overnight walkathon to benefit the American Cancer Society.

The brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity are highly active in philanthropy. "Sig Ep" is currently involved in six different programs to benefit the Salisbury community, in addition to their ongoing Adopt-a-Highway efforts.

"One of our local brothers has Muscular Dystrophy," said Andrew Palko, president of the SU chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. "We are holding a gold tournament to raise money for research for the MDA."

The brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity are involved in two main philanthropic projects this semester. The first is a large donation to the Ben's Red Swings charity, and the second is a powder puff game between the sororities in which the winner will receive the proceeds for their philanthropy.

Ben's Red Swings is named after a local child who died from cancer. Because his favorite activity was swinging, his parents created a fund to build a playground in his memory. The brothers of Sigma Pi fraternity also contribute to this philanthropy. Sigma Pi is dedicated to Habitat for Humanity, the Humane Society and other charities as well.

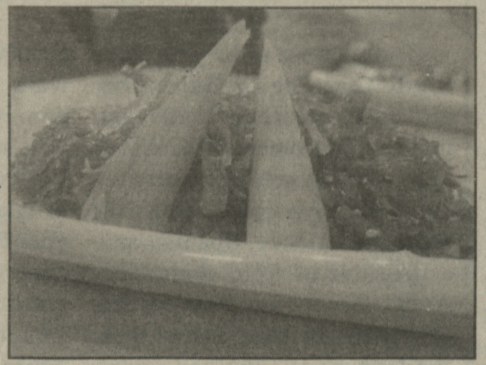
Another philanthropic sorority at SU is Zeta Tau Alpha. The sisters of ZTA help sponsor the Race for the Cure, a major charity related to breast cancer. The proceeds from this 5k run fund both national efforts and local breast cancer initiatives. However, the majority of the proceeds fund local community programs related to breast health education, screening and treatment.

Restaurant Review:

Fuji Sushi serves up a delicious mix

By: John Heath
Features Editor

I manipulated two small wooden implements with my right hand and picked up morsels of seaweed-laden octopus spiced with a potent sesame vinaigrette sauce. As I swallowed the slippery chunk, my taste buds were in awe. "Fuji Sushi" located on the corner of Route 13 and College Avenue, though not without its flaws, serves up a tantalizing array of Japanese flavors set in a comfortable atmosphere.



Yum, seaweed salad!

Flyer photo by Constance Mensh

A barefooted geisha mannequin and an arrangement of greenery welcomed us as we entered and barely audible 80's music mumbled from the speakers. Upon first look of the long and narrow room, I thought of how this restaurant might be better suited for a pizza place or a Subway. It seemed that the actual sushi preparation bar was located too far in the back, away from most of the tables.

In terms of ambience, relatively dim-lighting and a contrasting dark/light color scheme bodes well for this sushi restaurant. The room successfully avoids gaudiness and has the perfect level of Oriental decoration. Small bamboo plants, located on each table, help to contribute to the subtle eastern décor.

I started with a tasty appetizer of Sunomono, a mélange of octopus, cucumber, seaweed and strands of imitation crabmeat. A perfect blend of sesame and vinegar leads to a satisfying aftertaste. First time sushi eaters might want to avoid delving into an octopus appetizer, as they might be intimidated by the thought of eating such an animal.

My colleague, Photography Editor Constance Mensh, chose a seaweed salad, containing seaweed, imitation crab and cucumber. The seaweed salad had a more appealing presentation, garnished with triangles of crabmeat. The dressing of the seaweed salad, though perhaps not as spicy as other seaweed salads, has a full-bodied taste. For the price, the seaweed salad comes in a nice appetizer portion. My colleague was surprised by the presence of so many cucumbers in the salad, though she said it did not take away from the taste.

The sushi chefs at Fuji prepare and serve their specialties.

Flyer photo by Constance Mensh

The entrée consisted of seven pieces of sushi, eight pieces of tuna maki roll, eight pieces of avocado roll, eight pieces of cucumber roll and eight pieces of eel roll.

The eel roll consisted of cooked eel and a mild teriyaki sauce wrapped in seaweed and covered in a layer of rice. While not as firmly compacted as the other rolls, the eel roll had a good texture and a delicious taste. Even though the presentation was rather lack-luster, the eel roll comes across distinctly different from other fish but still pleasing.

The vegetable rolls of avocado and cucumber wrapped in rice and seaweed, have a nice taste of sesame. The avocado within the roll was perfectly ripe, but the cucumber rolls seemed to leave me unsatisfied and were not nearly as tasty as the avocado. I enhanced the mild flavor of the tuna roll with a small chunk of wasabe and fresh pickled ginger. Of the maki rolls, my colleague and I preferred the avocado rolls.

I was very pleased with the freshness of the fish served as sushi – yellowtail, yellow tuna, tuna, salmon, shrimp, octopus and red snapper. While pleasing to the palate, the shrimp, tuna and yellow tuna were certainly not the most flavorful of the arrangement.

A garnish of a sliver of strawberry was a clever contrast to the yellowtail. The octopus, perfectly tender and topped with a lemon slice and smelt roe, was wrapped in a thin strip of seaweed. While an interesting combination of octopus, I would have preferred to consume it without a citrus flavor, but the smelt eggs certainly added texture to the sushi.

Without a doubt, the salmon and the red snapper topped with shreds of scallions were the highlights of my sushi consuming experience. The perfectly fresh salmon flavor bounced around my palate until I swallowed the tasty morsel. The red snapper was the most flavorful fish of the evening and the scallions certainly added zest to the taste. While all of the fish was sufficiently fresh and the rice perfectly sweet, the rice beneath the slabs of fish was far from being masterfully crafted and compact.

As "Fuji Sushi" does not yet have a liquor license, we were served complimentary sake, a Japanese rice wine. The sake, an excellent complement to the sushi, was fairly strong and striking to the palate. When followed with a sip of tea, the aftertaste is even more appealing. Though traditionally served heated, this sake was about room temperature. I would have preferred to have the sake slightly warmer.

We concluded out sushi meal with three scoops of ice cream – red bean, green tea, and ginger. All three varieties, atypical of most ice cream parlors, delivered bold tastes. My favorite of the three, the red bean ice cream, had the look of strawberry ice cream as well as similarly sweet taste. It consisted of Japanese red beans that seemed to disintegrate in my mouth. The ginger had a flavor of cold ginger snaps and had an interesting taste. My colleague preferred the ginger, though our server said that it is not normally in stock. The green tea ice cream tasted as if I were eating a green tea smoothie and had a terrific texture and aftertaste.

Though not the perfect sushi bar, "Fuji Sushi" is certainly a pleasurable experience that offers a variety of wonderful flavors and **comfortable ambience.**

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Lewis indicted on drug charges

By John Denny
Staff Writer

The consideration that goes into drafting a college football player is immense. Weight, strength, quickness, speed, hand size, knowledge of the game and attitude are all evaluated by a myriad of football executives before actually selecting a player in the NFL draft. A player that possesses the necessary abilities to prove to NFL executives that he is worthy of a roster sport has indeed bucked the odds and joined an elite fraternity in which only injury or personal strife can strip him of his membership. This past week, Baltimore Ravens running back Jamal Lewis became the latest player in the NFL to become in danger of throwing away a promising career because of off the field drug charges. Lewis, the fifth overall pick in the 2000 draft out of Tennessee, was charged with "conspiring to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine of at least five kilograms."

A player's background has become an increasingly large factor when making a selection in the NFL draft. Tampa Bay Buccaneer defensive tackle Warren Sapp's draft position dropped to the twelfth spot in the 1995 draft due to a failed drug test at the combine. Although Sapp was considered the best player in the draft that year, 11 teams felt that his drug usage would be a liability. Sapp became the anchor of one of the best defensive teams of all time and is considered on of the best defensive linemen in the league today.

All-Pro Minnesota Vikings receiver Randy Moss slipped to the twenty-first spot in the 1998 draft due to his troubled past. Moss has gone on to break multiple NFL records and is considered by most NFL experts to be the best receiver in the game. But before he got to the pros, Florida State coach Bobby Bowden decided not to give Moss a full scholarship because of his history, which transpired into NFL owners not wanting to invest millions of dollars in him. Many college students are out to have a good time and sometimes do not think to weigh the consequences of their actions, which may be the reason for these players' misfortunes.

Lewis' indictment came out of a drug investigation that has led to 30 convictions and helped dismantle a cocaine trafficking ring in Atlanta. Lewis is accused of being a drug middleman for childhood friend Angelo Jackson and a police informant. He affirms that he has not had contact with Jackson since he was arrested for attempting to buy and distribute cocaine in July of 2000. Defense attorney Ed Garland says that the F.B.I. had their informant instigate talks and attempted to broker transactions of fake cocaine. "She [the informant] was someone who came along trying to set him up to get herself out of jail," Garland said.

Lewis has not been the only professional football player to be involved in drug charges after successful campaigns on the field. Nate Newton, longtime Dallas Cowboy offensive guard, was arrested twice in 2001 in the span of two weeks on charges of "possession with the intent to distribute" in Texas and Louisiana. Newton had in his possession a whopping combined total of 388 pounds of marijuana as he attempted to provide for his future. Newton was a perennial All-Pro, Super Bowl champion and a drug dealer. His actions bring shame to all those who cheered for him.

A lesser-known fullback for the Arizona Cardinals, Dennis McKinley, was arrested in 2003 for operating a illegal drug enterprise. This sixth round draft pick decided that a 401K might not yield the same results as 1,500 pounds of marijuana. Rather than dedicate himself to the sport that gave him financial flexibility, McKinley opted to become the Kaiser Soze of the southwest.

Soon, Lewis will begin the legal battle that will determine whether he is breaking NFL rushing records or sitting in solitude for 10 to life behind bars. The desire to give the people he came up with a piece of the pie may have proved tragic for Lewis. He better hope his phalanxes of lawyers are able to raise reasonable doubt a la Orenthal James' dream team of attorneys because it may be his only ticket out of jail.

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ESPN's Dream Job: a few years too late

By: Kevin Froehlich
Staff Writer

To ESPN, from me: Great concept, just a little too late. After what seemed like a year of promos, ESPN's "Dream Job" finally debuted last week. Twelve contestants remained after an original 10,000 tried out. One of the 12 is there because he won by random selection after dining at a Wendy's. Now how cheap is that? That's like running the first 25.2 miles of a marathon and then having to compete against a fresh runner for the last mile. Anyway, let's discuss the premiere episode.

Six of the 12 performed a piece called "My Sports Center" on the first night. Each were given two highlights, had to write their own script and perform it like they were actually anchoring. Then, they were subjected to four judges who critiqued them "American Idol" style. The first judge was Tony Kornheiser, a personal favorite. From a man who works three mediums (newspaper, radio and TV), he was knowledgeable and on point with his wit, probably because you could see in his eyes that he did not want to be there. He compared one contestant's performance to a Chris Farley skit on "SNL." Another judge I liked was Al Jaffe, ESPN's VP of Talent. He's the guy who has hired every anchor. He was also more ruthless than Tony, which is what the show desperately needed, mainly because the other two judges were irrelevant.

Kit Hoover, co-host of ESPN2s "Cold Pizza," was on the panel. Besides being absolutely gorgeous, what was her purpose? It's as if she read the Paula Abdul handbook on how to be extremely nice even if the contestant was terrible. I'm not saying she should not have been there, but she hosts a lame morning show that to my knowledge no one watches. But the real kicker was Washington Redskins All-Pro linebacker LaVar Arrington. Hello! What experience does he bring? Anyone? Anyone? Bueller? The answer is none. He should not be on the show and not only because his opinion is like mine, worthless, not because he has never been an anchor before, but because his football team couldn't beat the Little Giants. Icebox would own him.

There is one contestant, however, who had me laughing. Not because he was genuinely funny, but because he was pathetic. His name is Michael Quigley, and he is the one Kornheiser compared to Chris Farley. For both of his highlights he acted as if the games were the greatest contests mankind had ever been laid its eyes on. The next time he's on air, I would not be surprised if he popped a vein in his head. And to top it off, during the "Who Am I?" segment, in which each wannabe is asked a series of questions by the others, Quigley responded to, "She hit Nancy Kerrigan with a pipe" with, "The girl from Disney." Okay, I know you are on the spot and a blank may surface in your head and you will forget it was Tonya Harding, but "The girl from Disney?" Tonya Harding being allowed anywhere near Disney is like Jenna Jameson being allowed near a church: the moral standards of both are such contradictions that if she entered, the world would suck in and cease to be.

Continued on page 19

The wacky world of sports

By: Chris McCarthy
Sports Editor

Every week things happen in the world of sports that strike me as odd, humorous and just plain ridiculous. Usually, most of this stuff goes in one ear and out the other, but I decided to chronicle some of the random thoughts that have bounced around my brain all week. So, for your enjoyment, I have decided to bring you the first installment of "The Wacky World of Sports."

Earlier this week, I was searching for a parking spot in the maze that is the student lot behind Caruthers. Finally, I spotted an empty space and decided to take a shot at it. Out of nowhere, some car cuts me off and grabs the spot from right under my nose. I sat there for a second in disbelief, but that was just the beginning of my anguish. Out of the car steps a guy in a Yankees leather coat. Bitterness set in. At the time, I was on the phone with my buddy Matt, who also despised the Evil Empire. The experience led to this exchange:

Me: I just lost a good parking spot to a guy wearing a Yankees jacket.

Matt: Man, walking around with Yankees gear on is the equivalent to walking around the US in 1980 with a Russian hockey jersey on.

I'm waiting for the day when A-Rod breaks down during one of his co-interviews with Jeter. "Alright I admit it, we hate each other! I just came here because I can't stand losing anymore!" All the while, Jeter is next to him with that same evil smirk J.J. Redick gets when he puts the final nail in the coffin against the Terps in the Comcast Center. Steinbrenner is outraged by A-Rod's remarks and trades him to Tampa Bay for the rights to their entire AAA farm team. I'm telling you, this will happen.

Does Turk Wendell realize that he just got on the bad side of the most feared power hitter in baseball? What happens when San Fran. faces the Rockies in Coors Field and Bonds strides to the plate against Wendell? One of two things:

A) Bonds hits a screamer back at Wendell's head, prompting him to look like the people in "The Ring" after they see that little girl.

B) Bonds hits a ball to deep right that lands in….oh…November.

Darryl Strawberry has left his job as player development instructor with the Yankees to have more time for his new church activities. Please take a second and read that last sentence again. Is anyone else baffled?

Tiger Woods ended all that "slump" talk with his win at the Accenture Match Play championships on Sunday. Enjoy it sports fans, he is the greatest of all time.

Will Ferrell should be a judge on ESPN's "Dream Job," but only if he does his impression of Harry Carey the entire time. This must happen. He couldn't be any worse than LaVar "umm….I agree with everyone else" Arrington as a judge.

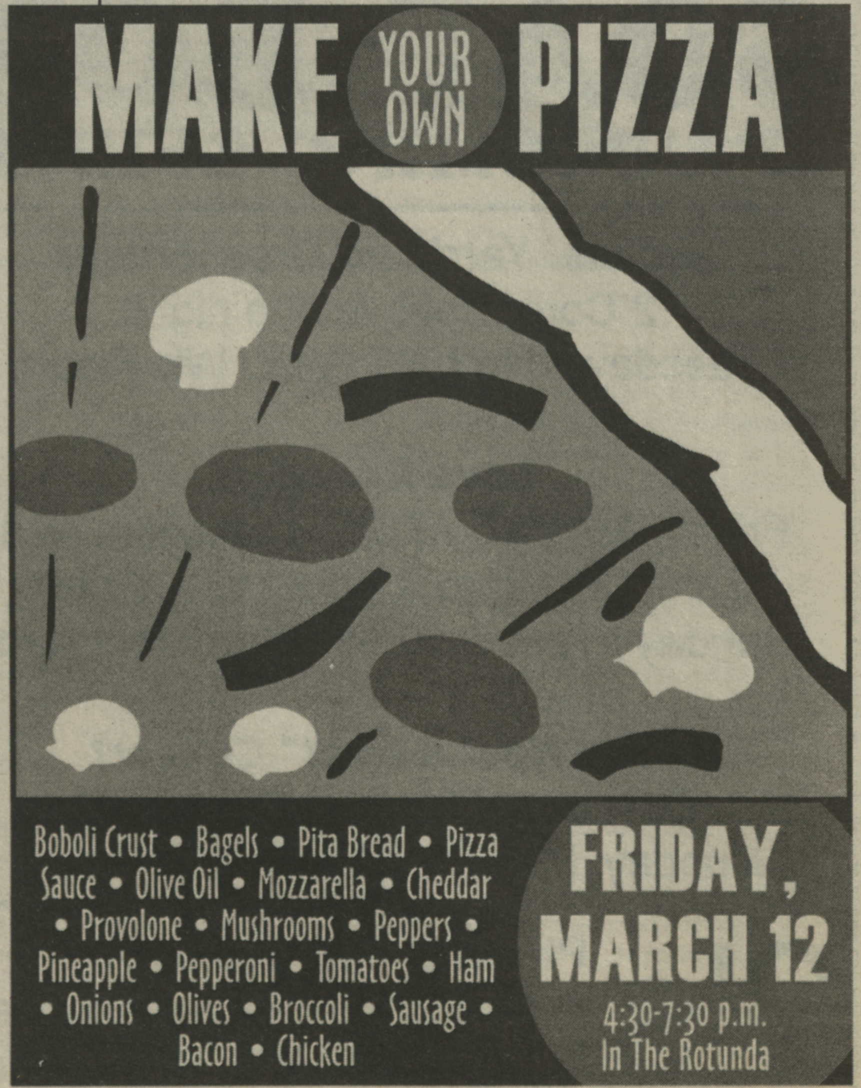
My old buddy Maurice Clarett was told by one NFL running back coach to put in a tic-tac before his next interview because his breath was killing everyone in the room. I am not making this up, I couldn't. I'm at a loss for words right now.

Arena football needs more media attention. The action is great and it is the only sport where guys like Jon Bon Jovi can own a team. Can you imagine Bon Jovi signing your checks? "Slippery When Wet" on repeat in the locker room, the occasional live performance by the band, this has to be a publicists dream. Who do I have to talk to to get an arena football league together at SU?

Stanford and St. Joe's will not make it to the elite eight in this year's NCAA tournament. I am somehow convinced of this.

Lastly, it is a great time to be an SU sports fan. We have TWO number one teams in the country right now (softball and men's lacrosse), a nationally ranked baseball team, multiple tennis players who are ranked AND the fourth ranked women's lacrosse team. Granted we can only find SU gear at the bookstore and we won't be on ESPN anytime soon, but that doesn't mean we don't have some fine athletes here. Give them support. Even paint your face if you want. Remember, we only are college students once, so go nuts and root for the Gulls.

There you have it, some of the things that intrigued my about the sports community. There's probably much more to say, but my space here is limited. Until next time…



Softball facing high expectations

By: Jeff Mizia
Staff Writer

Being ranked preseason No. 1 in the nation usually puts a lot of pressure on a team. However, this year's SU softball team is focused on the goals that they have set forth. After being the runner-up in last year's College World Series, the Sea Gulls are even hungrier for a national title this year. "We prepare mentally through practice," head coach Margie Knight said. "We make pressure situations in practice, and we talk openly about it [the No. 1 ranking]." With five offensive players and three defensive players returning, the Lady Sea Gulls have a great mindset to begin their quest at a national title.

The team hopes to win its eighth straight CAC championship, its region and, of course, the ultimate goal in a national championship. To reach these larger goals, the coaching staff and players have set smaller, performance goals to stay focused. For example, the Lady Gulls want to keep their fielding percentage above .966 and their earned run average at 1.1 or below. Last year the Sea Gulls had a team fielding percentage of .974 and an ERA of 0.92.

Although the team is great from top to bottom, there are several key players that will make the difference. All-American sophomore pitcher Lacey Lister is quite possibly the best at her position in Division III. She led the nation with 27 wins last year and was second in total strikeouts with 259. Junior catcher Kim Rementer is also a big part of the team's success. "She calls a great game behind the plate and is fast both offensively and defensively," said Knight.

Leadership will come from senior Rosie Aley, who is coming off a great junior year. She led the team in doubles and was second on the team with a .432 batting average. "Aley is a great left-handed hitter who shows great leadership by example," said Knight.

Junior Leslie White moves to third base after two years in center field. Knight said that White sets the tone for the team with her excellent speed and bunting skills. The team's versatility allows players such as White to change positions without missing a beat. It also shows the confidence the coaching staff has in its quality freshman and transfers such as freshman centerfielder Nichole Fuquathat and junior transfer pitcher Tonya Nickersonthey.

This year's team is a very fast one defensively and especially offensively. Although they stole an amazing 125 out of 139 bases last season, the Lady Gulls are looking to improve upon those numbers. With their fast pace practice situations, it is believed that this team will be back in the World Series once again with hopes of capturing the national title. In order to do that, Coach Knight feels that their main priority is just to make every play on the field.

The team opens their season on Sunday, Feb. 26 at Wesley, followed by a trip to Gallaudet. Their home opener against Christopher Newport will be on Tuesday, March 9 at 2 p.m.

SU hosts Ultimate Frisbee Tournament

By: Matt Dewhurst
Staff Writer

Salisbury hosted the first quazi-annual "Leap Year Celebration" this weekend. The Ultimate Frisbee tournament included over 40 teams from all over the east coast and was played at the intramural fields and the fields next to the old Salisbury Mall. Teams such as the University of Massachusetts, Syracuse, Wake Forest and Columbia all made the trek to Salisbury for a weekend of Frisbee. The Buzz, SU's men's team, and The Flash, SU's women's team, both had respectable showings in the large field. The Buzz finished 15th out of 30, while the Flash finished 7th out of 13.

"This was a good opportunity to have our younger players see the game first hand," Buzz co-captain Jeremy White said. "It just makes us that much better."

The Buzz won their first game against Drexel 13-5, then lost a rough game against Navy on Saturday 12-9. Later that afternoon, they came back and beat a tough Lehigh team 12-11, allowing them to play in the B bracket on Sunday. Salisbury went on to beat JMU 13-8 and then lost a heartbreaker to the University of Pittsburgh, 11-10, ending their weekend.

"The games we lost, weren't because we got out played," White said, "we made little mistakes that gave the game to the other team."

The promise that the team showed was remarkable and shows that they have a legitimate chance to turn some heads at the regional tournament in May.

The toughest game for the Flash was against Wake Forest. Salisbury was victorious with a hard fought 11-10 win. The Flash, who boast many underclassman, are still rebuilding year after losing nearly 75 percent of the team to graduation the past two years. They continue to get better and better with each tournament they play in. Next up for SU Ultimate is the "Huck of the Irish" tournament March 13-14 in Towson, where both teams look to continue to impress and electrify the spectators.

JOB, continued from page 19

Oh, and Stuart Scott as the host is a terrific choice. Like I don't get enough of that lazy eye and hip-hop talk on the regular Sports Center. Let's just say I am not a big fan. In the end, each judge was given a vote and online voters combined to make the fifth judge. Mike Hall was America's baffling choice to be cut while Quigley and Chris Williams split the other four judges. It came down to the ESPN executives to break the tie between Quigley and Williams. Stu went to a red phone and listened for who would be voted off and over the loud speaker we learned Williams had to go. Now what's the use of the phone? The executives should silently tell Stu who is cut and have him relay the message or get rid of it. Looking corny isn't funny, it's embarrassing. Just ask Ben Affleck.

All in all, I like the idea of the show, but it would've been more fun five years ago, when there weren't so many anchors. I can't tell the difference between most of them and the numerous annoying catch phrases that make people like Stuart Scott celebrities. Plus, nowadays, there are just too many reality shows and unless it's an absolute eye-catcher like "My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiancé" (straight up brilliant), it's just not attractive enough. I don't know if I'll watch it all the way through, but I'm pretty sure I'll tune in consistently, if only in anticipation of a Quigley vein pop.

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SU SPORTS

1 March 2004

Student Athlete Spotlight: Andy Murray

By Dan Parker
Staff Writer

Senior midfielder Andy Murray has excelled at the sport of lacrosse during his time at SU. Murray has already accomplished every significant achievement that a collegiate athlete dreams of. Last year, he was named Division III player of the year and led his team to the National Championship. With another championship this year, Murray will solidify his spot as one of the most outstanding lacrosse players in Salisbury University history.

Q: Describe what it felt like to win the National Championship.
A: The feeling of winning that game was unbelievable. It was like a huge weight was lifted from our shoulders because every year we expect to win the championship. As players, anything other than a national championship is a disappointment and is not acceptable.

Q: What are your individual goals for this season?
A: The main goal I have for this season is to win another national championship and go undefeated. Besides that, pretty much repeat what I did last year.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?
A: In terms of lacrosse, I want to give the outdoor league a try if I get the chance to try out. But when I graduate in May, I am going to focus on getting a job.

Q: What inspired you to play lacrosse and what individuals do you look up to in the sport?
A: I am not sure what inspired me to play, but I started when I was in 6th grade and have been playing ever since. I look up to people like Eric Martin and Joe Tamberrino because they have dominated the game.

Q: It is hard to repeat. Is there anything the team needs to do differently to win this year?
A: No, I don't think we need to do anything different. We have so many good players that if we go out and do what Coach Berkman tells us to do there is no doubt in my mind that we will win another championship.

Q: Britney Spears or Christina Aguilera?
A: I would have to go with Britney because Christina is pure dirt.

Women's Tennis dominates Haverford

By Noah Wood
Staff Writer

Photo by Lucia Michel

Women's tennis wins first match against Haverford.

The seventh ranked Salisbury University women's tennis team beat tenth ranked Haverford College 8-1 last Saturday in their first match of the season. The team competed very strongly in doubles and singles matches. Its skills and practice proved effective against the strong competition from Haverford.

The players attributed part of their success to their teamwork and coherence.

"I think we've got a great line-up, and we're really close," said senior team captain, Cassie Meyer, a marketing major. "We work really hard and it is going to pay off this year. I'm so excited. I felt I played really well and just used everything we've been practicing to my advantage on both doubles and singles."

Meyer was victorious in singles and doubles play at the match.

In addition, the match was the first for freshmen Erika Mitry and Jenny Rosler. "I was really excited about this match, because it is my first match, and I realize why I love being part of this team," said Mitry, a communications major. She won her doubles match 8 – 4 and her singles matches 6 – 4 and 6 – 1.

"Since today was my first match, I found that everyone was so positive and supportive," said Rosler, a mathematics major. "The coaches were always there to help us. Today made me realize why I wanted to come to Salisbury to play tennis."

Rosler won her doubles match 8 – 2 but lost her singles match. The contest was a great thing for the whole team and it seemed to show the freshmen what kind of competition they are up against throughout the season.

Assistant Coach Steve Soliday managed the game in the absence of head coach Randy Halfpap, who was away at a tournament with the men's tennis team. Soliday was very impressed with how the women played and was glad they finally got to play against other teams rather than scrimmage among themselves.

"The women have been practicing for a month now, and they were ready for some new competition," said Soliday. "They were ready to see what they could do against the competition instead of against each other in practice."

The Lady Gulls will next welcome Methodist on March 9 at 3 p.m.

Sea Gull Sports Beat

By Chris McCarthy
Sports Editor

Men's Basketball

The SU men's basketball team lost to Catholic 75-68 in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday. The loss eliminated the Gulls, who finished the year at 7-18, from the CAC tournament.

Offensively, the Gulls were led by freshmen Ray Williams and Segun Odermu. Williams scored a team high 14 points and Odermu contributed 13 points and three blocked shots. Junior Joe Burke pulled down eight rebounds to go with his 12 points. Sophomore Aaron Meekins also played well, adding 12 points.

The Gulls are only losing one player to graduation and should be able to use their experience to improve next season.

Women's Basketball

The women ballers of SU lost 78-68 to York, knocking them out of the CAC tournament. The young team finished the year at a respectable 13-13.

Freshman Julia Waters led all scorers with 22 points and sophomore guard Christen Barney added 18. Freshman Courtney Kendall contributed 10 points and nine rebounds for the Lady Gulls.

The women's team is loaded with youth and should be very competitive next season. In all, they have seven diaper dandies and no seniors. Next year should be a very good one for Coach Benshetler's ball club.

Baseball

The baseball team suffered their first defeat of the season at the hands of Christopher Newport University, 7-4.

Christopher Newport roughed up starting pitcher Mike Williams (0-1) for five runs in the first inning. In all, they put up a six spot on the Gulls in the first and cruised from there. Salisbury left 14 runners on base and was led offensively by Brendan Mason and Greg Lemon, who each had a hit and an RBI for SU.

The Gulls will next travel to Trenton to face New Jersey on March 2. They return home to face Chowan on Wed., March 3.

Women's Lacrosse

Photo by Contessa Crisostomo

Lady Gulls battle it out with Catholic University.

The No. 4 Lady Gulls destroyed Catholic 19-3 in their season opener on Wednesday. Eight players scored at least two goals for SU (1-0) including three by both Linda Ackermann and Lynsey Bateman.

SU began the game with an 8-0 advantage and eventually built their lead to 18-1 with just over 10 minutes remaining in the game. Senior Amber Stansbury, junior Sarah Slafkosky, and sophomores Erin McCarthy, Amanda Tack, Mary Batemann and Katy Funk all contributed two goals apiece.

The Lady Gulls next travel to take on Franklin-Marshall on March 6.